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FUTURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

"Main Principles and Guidelines for the Sixth Programming Cycle of the United Nations Development Programme", declaration adopted in Buenos Aires on 12 April 1994 by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay

Note by the Administrator

1. The Permanent Representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay to the United Nations, in a letter of 18 April 1994 to the Administrator, have requested that the attached declaration entitled "Main Principles and Guidelines for the Sixth Programming Cycle of the United Nations Development Programme", adopted in Buenos Aires on 12 April 1994 by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, be circulated as an official document under items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda of the 1994 annual session, since the commitments undertaken in Buenos Aires are related to those items.

2. Accordingly, the Administrator has the honour to transmit the annexed declaration to the Executive Board.

Annex

DECLARATION

MAIN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE SIXTH PROGRAMMING CYCLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The countries of the Southern Cone Common Market and Chile,

Recalling the following resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly:

(a) 2688 (XXV) on the Capacity of the United Nations development system (consensus of 1970) of 11 December 1970;

(b) 44/211 on the Comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system of 22 December 1989;

(c) 47/199 on the Triennial policy review of operational activities for development within the United Nations system of 22 December 1992;

Taking into account United Nations Development Programme Governing Council decisions 90/34 on the fifth programming cycle and 91/29 on preparations for the fifth programming cycle,

Having conducted a medium-term evaluation of United Nations Development Programme activities during the fifth programming cycle in general, and in the five countries of the Southern Cone Common Market and Chile in particular,

Taking into account the preliminary discussions on the sixth programming cycle at the fortieth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (1993),

Analysing recent trends in financial flows to the United Nations Development Programme in general and the financial situation with respect to activities in Latin America and the Caribbean in particular,

Observing with concern the main ideas that have been propounded in various official statements on the future of the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing paragraph 18 of the joint communiqué issued on 17 January 1994 by the Presidents of the countries of the Southern Cone Common Market regarding the eligibility of member countries as recipients on concessional terms and on the basis of the broadest possible participation in the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind that the issue of the sixth programming cycle will be considered at the regional level within the framework of the Latin American Economic System in May 1994 and thereafter at the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme in June 1994,

1. Reaffirm the principles of eligibility of all developing countries on the basis of the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for

development of the United Nations system which are, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, neutrality and multilateralism, and ability to respond to the needs of the developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development;

2. Emphasize the need to consider and define the role of the United Nations Development Programme having regard to the current international context and taking into account the positive experience of the Latin American and Caribbean Countries during the fifth cycle in the execution of their respective national programmes and in the application at the national level of issues considered priorities in the multilateral agenda;

3. Emphasize the importance in the fifth cycle (compared to previous cycles) of counterpart cost-sharing contributions and Government cash contributions which, in the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, account for 88.2 per cent of the total budget approved for the region for the period 1992-1996, in addition to the 11.8 per cent from indicative planning figures. Because of this allocation of extrabudgetary resources the volume of cooperation activities is nearly nine times greater than would have been possible with voluntary contributions alone. These activities have strengthened the United Nations Development Programme as a whole and the recipient countries also and have at the same time contributed to financing the operations of other regional offices;

4. Reiterate the general principle governing the current legal framework of United Nations Development Programme activities whereby country programming should be based on the national development priorities of the countries and on the operational modalities chosen by them for the execution of projects, including, in particular, modalities that give priority to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries;

5. Stress the vital importance of effective support from field offices for national execution and, in particular, for nationally administered programmes and projects, as well as the need to review the utilization of regional indicative planning figures with a view to integrating them into important activities selected by the countries;

6. Emphasize the need to consider additional methodologies for the allocation of resources to national programmes other than per capita gross domestic product (calculated on the basis of exchange rates or domestic purchasing power) and acknowledge that specific and separate policies based on case-by-case analyses are needed in addressing the issue of development and of structural bottlenecks to economic growth;

7. Recall the division of labour between the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the subsidiary programmes of the Council as provided for by General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 10 December 1993 which also defines the specific functions of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme;

8. Agree:

(a) To publicize these principles and guidelines for the sixth programming cycle at all levels throughout the Latin American and Caribbean region, other regions of the developing world, countries with economies in transition, developed countries, the operational activities for development of the United Nations system in general and the United Nations Development Programme in particular;

(b) To continue their in-depth analysis of the regional principles and guidelines for the sixth programming cycle of the United Nations Development Programme;

Signed: Mr. Carlos E. Zaballa
Assistant Secretary for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic

Signed: Mr. Sergio Arruda
Director of the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation
Federative Republic of Brazil

Signed: Mr. Carlos Fuensalida Claro
Executive Director of the Agency for International Cooperation of the Republic of Chile

Signed: Ms. Leyla Dami de Giménez
Director of the Office for International Technical Cooperation of the Republic of Paraguay

Signed: Mr. Mariano Berro
Director of the Division for International Cooperation of the Office for Planning and the Budget, Office of the President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay

Buenos Aires, 12 April 1994